



St Andrew's Church of England (VC) Primary School

'Learn to love and love to learn; in God's love each one will shine.'

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." Matthew 4:19

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St Andrew's Weekly Update

Date: 16.9.23 Headteacher: Mrs H Gillingham

Value: Thankfulness

Dear Parents and Carers,

The children are all settled in their new classes and there is a real air of purposeful learning. Our youngest children, in Nursery, have loved exploring the equipment in their new outside space while Reception class have really got to grips with their new early morning routine. They have been taking part in a carousel of activities including reading, fine motor skill development, pencil skills and construction.



Year 6 have been exploring the book 'The Mysteries of Harris Burdick' as inspiration for their own writing. The children created drama scenes to imagine what is happening in the pictures they were given. Year 5, meanwhile, invited me to a sea shanty performance, playing on their xylophones accompanied by Miss Sewell on the violin.





Year 3 have been musical too, learning about pentatonic scales. The children practised recognising changes in pitch and used their hands to indicate whether the pitch was high or low. Their class song is written in a pentatonic scale so they made up their own five note melody using the same notes, which they then performed.



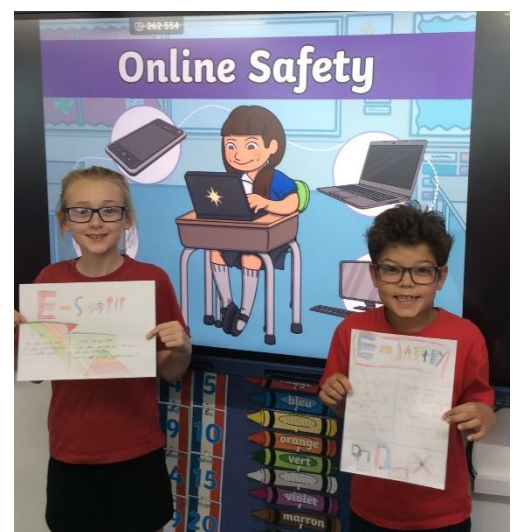
Year 2 have had an active start, practising their swift responses, goal keeping, in their PE lessons while Year 1 have been exploring the outside space for their new topic and making a good start with their phonic lessons.



Year 5 and Reception had their first buddy reading session together while Year 4 have been designing e-safety posters to remind themselves and others of all that they have to do to keep themselves safe whilst online.



Further details about the curriculum and the year groups Long Term Plans can be found on our school website.





Home Learning

Jonah (Y1) was given a Headteacher's Sticker for his wonderful atlas - filled with the flags of the world. He had clearly taken a great deal of time over this piece of work - which was stunning.



OPAL – Outside Play & Learning- Mr Cooper

This week the Year 6 children have been helping me move some tyres to mark out our new digging area. Once the tyres have been bolted together, the Year 6's will be helping to remove the turf so we have a fantastic area for the children to be able to dig and play in.

As always we are looking for donations to make our playtimes even better! If you are having a clear out of old toys, wheeled vehicles or large loose parts we would love to use them.

The Golden Welly - This week the Golden Welly was awarded to Liam in Year 2 who is always willing to help Mrs Randall with the tidying up at the end of play. Well done Liam!



Oxley Shield Cub Competition

Congratulations go to Nathan, Robyn and Jack W who competed as part of Panther Pack, 1st Stanstead Abbots and St Margaret's, and came 7th out of the 15 Cubs packs taking part.

Great team effort and lots of fun had by all.

Curriculum Evening

We will be holding our Curriculum Evening – next Thursday, 26th September. Teachers will be discussing curricular matters pertinent to their year group. Each teacher will hold two identical sessions, the first starting at 6.00pm and the second at 6.30pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

Lost Property

Please be aware that we are getting an increasing amount of unnamed lost property, including coats, building up in our conservatory. If your child has lost any items, then please do come and check at the end of the day. Please also ensure that all clothing items are clearly named as these can then be swiftly reunited with owner if misplaced.



Attendance Ladder



Attendance Matters - Every Day Counts!

Present whole school attendance (2024-25)	95.6%
National attendance	95.5%
Last week's school attendance	95%
Best Class Attendance: Week Beginning 9.9.24	Year 4 – 99%

You Can Toucan Awards

The You Can Toucan awards are presented each week to those children who have gone above and beyond the expected.

Last week staff chose:

Nursery: Elsie, for her great listening skills and being kind to her friends.

Reception: All of Year R for completing their first full week. You have all coped brilliantly.

Year 1: Phoebe for giving her best and working super hard in all areas of her work.

Year 2: Ellie for being helpful and consistently doing the right thing.

Year 3: George S for his positive attitude and perseverance in his writing.

Year 4: Thomas for his fantastic writing this week.

Year 5: Jermain for his effort and focus with his learning.

Year 6: Lilia-Mae for her fantastic effort in all subjects.



Our Half Term Value: Thankfulness

1 Chronicles 16:34: "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever."

Our new Value Advocates chose the following children who have lived the value for the week.

Class Value Advocate	Class Champion
Reception: Vienna chose	Olivia M for her wonderful positive attitude to school life.
Year 1: Gwilym chose	Harry for his super manners and having a lovely smile on his face.
Year 2: James chose	Liam for always remembering to say thank you.
Year 3: Isla chose	Ava for always living the values.
Year 4: Mimi chose	Laura for being kind and polite to others and showing thankfulness.
Year 5: Lewis chose	Max for caring for others and always being polite.
Year 6: Lilly chose	Ethan for his positivity and perseverance.

With kind regards

Mrs H Gillingham



OFFICE UPDATE

After School clubs – 1st Half Autumn Term

Booking for Super Star Sport's clubs for this half term is now live at: <https://superstarsportuk.classforkids.io/term/526> – Superstar Sport also continue to provide after-school care from 3.15pm – 5.45pm, Mon-Fri. Further information is available at www.superstarsport.co.uk. For any queries: email info@superstarsport.co.uk or phone 01992 766 707.

Message from Hertfordshire County Council

Help your child have a healthy start to the school year

Helping your child stay active, eat a healthy balanced diet, and get plenty of sleep are essential to keeping them healthy and well, but there are lots of other things you can do to help your child be as healthy as possible as they head back to school. The autumn term is a time when many viruses circulate, causing nasty winter illnesses. Make sure your child knows how to wash their hands properly and always has a tissue handy to catch coughs and sneezes, this will help to stop germs spreading.

Please also check that they are up to date with all their vaccinations, it is never too late to have missed vaccines. This year, all children aged 2-16 years will be entitled to a free flu vaccine, and those in a clinical risk group will also be able to get a Covid-19 vaccine. You can check your child's red book or on the NHS app to make sure that they have had all their vaccines – if not, you can book these for free at your GP practice.

If your child is feeling anxious about the new term ahead, there is lots of information and advice available to help. The five ways to wellbeing are five things we should do to help boost our wellbeing - visit www.justtalkherts.org to find out more. You can also find information about the support available for children and young people who may be struggling with their mental health.

We are Hertfordshire County Council. As your children go back to school it's the perfect time to explore what we've got to offer for families and young people, including public health advice, family centers, libraries, and fire station open days. Find out more at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/weare

Local news:

Diocesan news:

We have been asked by St Albans Diocese to pass on the following news:

The Diocese is advertising for two part-time administrators to work with the Education Team at Holywell Lodge. Further details are available on our website at: <https://www.stalbansdiocese.org/vacancies-role/diocesan-roles/>.

Both roles have an application deadline of 24th September.

News from Beezee Bees:

We are Beezee Families, and our team deliver FREE healthy lifestyles programmes to hundreds of families across Hertfordshire.

We have FREE healthy lifestyle programmes that start in September to support families to build healthy habits together. Sign-ups are open **now**, so families can secure their free spot. Alternatively, they can ask about 1:2:1 support. [Visit our website for more details.](#)



UPCOMING DATES

SEPT 2024

- Tues 17th** Year 1 Meet the Teacher Meeting - 2.30pm
- Thurs 19th** Individual & siblings (St Andrew's) photographs
- Thurs 26th** Coram Life Tent in school for all classes PSHE
- Thurs 26th** Curriculum Evening 6pm -7pm – all welcome
- Fri 27th** Coram Life Tent in school for all classes PSHE

OCT

- Tues 1st** Year 3 – Museum Workshop - Stone Age (in school, details to follow)
- Tues 1st** Year 4 – Museum Workshop – Egyptians (in school, details to follow)
- Wed 2nd** Governor Day
- Thurs 3rd** Church Service – Harvest Festival
- Thurs 3rd** Year 3 Development Day – Wodson Park PM (details to follow)
- Weds 9th** Choir – St Albans Cathedral - during the day (details to follow)
- Thurs 10th** Year 6 School Journey Meeting – 3.15pm
- Weds 16th** Year 6 – Stansteadbury Farm Trip
- Tues 22nd** Parent Consultation Meetings 3.30pm – 7.00pm
- Thurs 24th** Parent Consultation Meetings 3.30pm – 7.00pm
- Fri 25th** **Inset Day**

Mon 28th Oct – Fri 1st Nov – Half term holiday

NOV

- Mon 4th** The Two Johns – Internet Safety Visit
- Tues 12th** Reception Trip – details TBC
- Fri 15th** Reception – Year 6 Nasal Flu Spray
- Thurs 21st** Y4 trip – The British Museum, London

Trip dates for other classes are to be confirmed.

